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SUBJECT: Bi-weekly Review - [redacted] September 1 through 15.

POLITICAL

Mbu Appointed Nigerian Commissioner in the United Kingdom (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Governor General has announced that Matthew T. MBU, Federal Minister without portfolio, has been appointed Nigerian Commissioner at London.

Mbu was born November 20, 1927 at Ogoja, Eastern Nigeria. After leaving school at the age of 17, he was employed by the firm of John Holt & Company, where he worked until his appointment as Federal Minister of Labor in 1953. During his period of appointment with Holts, Mbu was the general secretary of the Holt's African Workers Union, Ogoja, and president of the Ogoja Native Authority in 1952 and 1953. He is a bachelor.

The news of Mbu's new assignment has set off a series of adverse press comments, not all of which have been confined to the Action Group papers. Most of the critics have pointed to his youth, his lack of education, and his brief experience in government. In a statement which he released after the announcement that he would accept the appointment, Mbu answered his critics by saying that "there should be no cause of anxiety about my choice to represent Nigeria in the outside world. Rather than being a disgrace and an object of ridicule to the Nigerian public while I am abroad, I shall without mincing words say that I am bound to live up to their utter surprise to be the pride of Nigeria abroad".

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Since Commissioners representing the three Regions are already in residence at London, Nigeria will now have four representatives in the United Kingdom. Mbu's appointment presumably resulted from the NCNC's insistence in the Council of Ministers that the Federal Commissioner be chosen from the ranks of its party. No successor to Mbu's ministerial post, which he must resign upon assuming his new positic.,

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REPORTER

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has yet been announced, although it is rumored that L. P. OJUKWU, who is a member of the Federal House and accompanied Eastern Premier AZIKIWE on his trip to the United States last year, will be appointed.

Establishment of Federal Ministry of Research and Information (UNCLASSIFIED)

Kola BALOGUN, Federal Minister without portfolio, has been named to head a new Ministry of Research and Information. Balogun will assume responsibility for Information Services, presently the responsibility of the Chief Secretary, and for Natural Resources, which now fall within the portfolio of the Minister of Natural Resources and Social Services, Adegoke ADELABU.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

The NCNC have been unhappy that the additional ministry created by the split of Public Works and Transport last April (see D-162, Apr. 15, 1955, p.5) was awarded to a Northern Minister. The creation of the new ministry probably results more from the desire to assign a portfolio to an NCNC Minister than from the reasons announced by the Federal Government: "to enable the present Minister of Natural Resources and Social Services to concentrate on Education and Health matters which are of special importance at this time".

Adelabu Appears Before Nicholson Inquiry (UNCLASSIFIED)

Adegoke Adelabu, Chairman of the Ibadan District Council (IDC) and Federal Minister of Social Services, has recently been granted six weeks' leave of absence by the Governor General, presumably so that he may testify before the investigation of the IDC by sole Commissioner E. W. J. NICHOLSON. Adelabu is also defendant in several Ibadan lawsuits, one of which resulted in his sentence to two months' imprisonment for contempt of court before an Ibadan magistrate.

Investigation of the NCNC-controlled IDC (see D-18, July 30, 1955, p.3), instigated by the Action Group Regional Government, thus far has proceeded along the usual lines of alleged corruption, bribery, and nepotism. Adelabu has denied the specific charges that he personally accepted bribes and has stated that he will prove that the council's operations were subject to the "threat, intimidation, prosecution, and persecution" of the Regional Government.

To date, the Commissioner has dismissed eight of the thirteen cases of alleged corruption on the grounds that the prosecution had failed to present acceptable and direct evidence to substantiate the allegations.

Nkruma Visits Nigeria (UNCLASSIFIED)

Kwame NKRUMA, Prime Minister of the Gold Coast, was in Lagos for several days when the ship aboard which he was taking a brief vacation stopped at this port. Although the Nigerian Government announced that N.ruma was on holiday and would have no official engagements, it is understood that he conferred informally with several representatives of the Federal Government and major political parties.

Results of Local and Bye-Elections (UNCLASSIFIED)

In elections for six District Councils in and around Benin, Western Region, the NCNC decisively defeated the Benin-Delta Peoples Party (BDPP), headed by AKENZUA II, Oba of Benin (see D-183, June 16, 1955, p.2). Of the 166 seats at issue, the NCNC won 124, the BDPP 32, and Independents 7; the results of three were nullified.

Also in the West, Chief Yamu NUMA, who was recently ejected from the NCNC and joined the BDPP, was defeated by his N CNC opponent for election to the Southern Urhobo District Council. The NCNC won 19 of the 36 seats contested, the BDPP 6, AG 5, and Independents 6.

The bye-election for two seats for the Federal House of Representatives from Uyo, Eastern Region, resulted in the defeat of the NCNC candidates: a representative of the United National Independents Party (UNIP) polled the largest number of votes, followed by an AG candidate. The election was noteworthy in that 70% of the eligible electorate voted.

1956 Constitutional Convention (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Western Branch of the NCNC has released a statement that the NCNC will advocate that residual constitutional powers be returned from the Regions to the Center at next year's Convention. The Action Group has announced it favors the present arrangement whereby powers not specifically mentioned in the Constitution are reserved to the Regions.

In Lagos, Governor-General Sir James ROBERTSON told a delegation from Dr. Chike OBI's Dynamic Party that he could not give any specific assurance that the party would be represented at next year's talks.

In the Cameroons, Mr. F. J. GANA, General Secretary of the Kamerun National Congress (KNC), stated that his party would not advocate self-government for the Southern Cameroons in 1956. The KNC would press, he said, for full Cameroonian Regional status next year, "building and developing gradually toward self-government". He said that the KNC would fight for the unification of the British and

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French parts of the territory, and that such unification was feasible even though the parts were controlled by two colonial trustees. Gana noted that the KNC had allies on the French side who were also striving for unification.

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ECONOMIC

Development in Eastern Region (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Governor of the Eastern Region, Sir Clement PLEASS, recently informed the Nsukka County Council that one-half of the current expenditure of the Government of the Eastern Region is to be devoted to medical and educational needs, one third of the money for development, and an additional £1,750,000 will be for the acquisition of an adequate water supply for the Region. The Governor also informed the councillors that plans for the spending of the £2,750,000 from the Colonial Development and Welfare fund for the five-year development plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir Clement stated specifically that the Government would reimburse up to 50 and 75 percent of the expenditure on the Nsukka-Ofoko and Nsukka-Ogrugru roads. Expanded telecommunication services will be provided when the "very high frequency" station being constructed at Enugu is completed.

Cocoa Developments (UNCLASSIFIED)

Three reasons for the slightly weaker tone of the London cocoa market have been advanced as: (1) Absence of any important demand from manufacturers; (2) slightly more favorable crop news; and (3) reports of decreasing consumption.

In West Africa the major producing concerns are making concerted efforts to reduce inroads on production made by diseases and pests that have established a strong foothold. Old cocoa areas are also being rehabilitated and an increased supply of improved planting material is being made available for distribution to farmers. In an effort to improve the general quality a certain amount of Amazon cocoa obtained from the West African cocoa research institute, Tafo, Gold Coast, is being tried out in the Eastern Region. 360 pods, equivalent to about 12,800 seedlings, have been received for distribution. One-half of this quantity will be given to farmers and the rest will be allotted to the Eastern Region Development Corporation cocoa plantation at Ikom.

Trade with Japan: (UNCLASSIFIED)

Japan imported only £2 worth of goods from Nigeria during the first six months of 1955 according to the Department of Statistics. This, however, represents an increase of £1 over the same period of 1954.

Imports into Nigeria from Japan during this period showed an increase from £3,275,566 for the first half of 1954 to £7,413,848 for the January to June period of 1955.

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LABOR

Eastern Teachers Quit National Teachers Union (UNCLASSIFIED)

E. E. ESUA, Secretary General of the Nigeria Union of Teachers, (NUT) has made several recent speeches criticizing the Eastern Government for its proposed University and for the salary increases recently established for Government and private teachers in the Region. Reaction to Mr. Esua's attacks has occurred in the form of the announced decision of the Port Harcourt branch of the NUT to withdraw from the NUT and establish their own Regional union.

Action Group editorials denounced the withdrawal of the Eastern teachers, declaring that it was an NCNC political move and stating that it was "ironical" for the NCNC, the party ostensibly in favor of unitary government for Nigeria, to promote the establishment of a regional trade union association.

Recruitment of Expatriate Communications Technicians (UNCLASSIFIED)

Upon his return to Nigeria from a recruitment trip to the United Kingdom, Federal Minister of Communications and Aviation K. O. MBADIWE announced that his Department has contracted for the services of 60 British engineers to fill vacant positions in the Posts and Telegraph Department.

The Minister stated that both the Nigerian and British Governments have been gratified by the satisfactory response to notices of the vacant positions. The explanation is reported to be found in the extensive publicity recently given to Nigeria's need for expatriate technicians and, perhaps more important, to the fact that the positions carry higher than normal contract salaries.

Because of the large number of new expatriates recruited, the Minister was careful to point out that all are qualified technicians hired on a contract basis, and that they will not adversely affect the progress of Nigerian trainees or technicians on the Department's established staff.

EDUCATION

U.S. Visit of Eastern Minister of Education (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Eastern Regional Government has announced that I. U. AKPABIO, Eastern Regional Minister of Education, will leave Nigeria on September 27 to visit the United Kingdom and the United States. It is probable that Mr. Akpabio will accompany Premier Azikiwe on the United States leg of his trip and that they will be interested in holding discussions concerning the establishment of the proposed University of Nigeria in the Eastern Region (see D-25, Aug. 16, 1955, p.8).

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North to Expedite Clerk Training (UNCLASSIFIED)

A Kaduna release states that in view of the lack of qualified Northern candidates for clerical positions, emergency steps will be taken by the Regional Government to provide additional clerk training facilities for Northern students.

At present, the announcement states, the North has 500 clerical vacancies, which are expected to increase to 700 or more within the next four years. Since the Northern Public Service Commission has determined that there is no possibility of filling these vacancies with the normal graduates of Northern schools, four training centers are to be established to provide an intensive two-year courses for students at the sixth grade level. To be located at Sokoto, Potiskum, Bida, and Oturkpo, each center will enroll 50 students and will commence operations in February 1956.

Catholic University (UNCLASSIFIED)

Further details have been released concerning the establishment of a Catholic University in Eastern Nigeria (see D-9, July 16, 1955, p.5).

In an interview with the Eastern Regional Minister of Education I. U. Akpabio, Father JORDAN, Education Adviser to the Nigerian Catholic Mission, stated that the Jesuit Education Association will have responsibility for staffing the university and that most of the staff will be drawn from the United States. Negotiations are under way for affiliation with Fordham University, New York, to the end that Nigerian students may pursue graduate studies in the United States. Father Jordan said that leading Jesuit Education members are expected to visit Nigeria within the near future to discuss, among other topics, the financing of the university, which he admitted has not yet been satisfactorily arranged.

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MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Visit of U.S. Rubber Corporation Representatives (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Messrs. F. L. TOBEY and B. A. KRUKOFF recently visited the Consulate General in connection with an inspection trip of rubber plantations in West Africa for the U.S. Rubber Corporation. They inspected plantations of the Cameroons Development Corporation in the Southern Cameroons and the United Africa Company at Sapele, Western Region.

Apparently motivated by the recent announcement that Dunlop will establish a rubber plantation in the Eastern Region (see D-18, July 30, 1955, p.4), representatives of several rubber companies have been traveling in Nigeria surveying the possibilities of establishing plantations. Because of the Nigerian land tenure law, it is extremely difficult to obtain lease rights for adequate plantation acreage in any but the most sparsely populated areas.

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